

Advancing Women's Human Rights, Racial Justice & Social Welfare
Program Consultants: US Women & Cuba Collaboration
May 14-25, 2011
Organized by Marazul Charters, Inc.

March 22, 2011

Querida Amiga/Dear Friend,

We are writing with details that will allow you to make final decisions and plans about participation in the May 2011 Women's Delegation Research Program in Cuba. As we have previously announced, the delegation is being organized by Marazul Charters with program consultation by the US Women and Cuba Collaboration. Our program theme is Advancing Women's Human Rights, Racial Justice and Social Welfare and our 12-day delegation is planned for 20-25 women. Marazul works closely with the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), and the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), an organization that represents 85% of Cuban women and girls 14 years and older.

What follows will help you make a final commitment to this delegation's professional exchanges and opportunities for research into the realities of Cuban women's lives. An exciting trip has been planned in four Provinces across the island to explore the enormous gains in the status of Cuban women as a result of the Cuban Revolution, gains that women across the world might benefit from understanding and using as strategic models about community, nation building and global solidarity. We will also be participating in the 7th International Conference, Women in the 21st Century, organized by the University of Havana and FMC. Details and Calls for Proposals are on our website www.womenandcuba.org. In this delegation and at the Conference, we will learn more about and develop strategies for taking these models into own professional lives, and we will also investigate shared leadership strategies for US and Cuban women across borders.

Legal trip: Based on our experience and knowledge of Cuba, we have chosen to work once again with Marazul Charters and we are serving as a program consultant for this trip. Marazul Charters has a long history of arranging travel programs in Cuba and is licensed as a Travel Service Provider (TSP) by the U.S. Treasury Department. Per U.S. government guidelines for legal travel to Cuba under the Treasury Department's General License for research, this delegation is designed for full-time professionals who are conducting full-time research in their fields and/or graduate students receiving credit from their academic institutions. (See the Marazul attachments for more information, as well as the Travel page under Web Resources on our website, www.womenandcuba.org). Finally, contact Marazul with any remaining questions you have.

The overview: The mission of the **US Women and Cuba Collaboration** is to build a strong US women's movement dedicated to ending the US government blockade of Cuba and to creating mutually beneficial US-Cuba relations; our work is rooted in the concept of universal human rights, racial and economic justice, and women's rights. Programs that we consult on are much more than relatively short visits to the amazing island of Cuba; they are also a commitment to continued work for just and peaceful relations between Cuba and the US. Delegation members become part of a growing network of women around the globe who are organizing against the devastating consequences of the economic blockade by the US against Cuba. While in Cuba we will discuss strategies for passing on to others—once we are home—the education and experiences of our time with the people of Cuba.

Program costs:

\$2,300 per person in a double room

\$2,515 per person in a single room (if available)

Includes roundtrip air from Miami, accommodations with breakfast daily, other meals as indicated in the program, transportation, bi-lingual guide, and full research program of site visits, meets, and exchanges.

Program cost includes:

- Your roundtrip airfare from departure city Miami, Florida to Havana, Cuba
- Economy (**Star) lodging in Havana, Santa Clara, Holguin and Santiago de Cuba
- Breakfast daily, usually also lunch or dinner—other meals will be at your own expense
- Transportation to and from site visits and meetings
- **Women in the 21st Century Conference** registration
- Bi-lingual guides and translators
- Health insurance while in Cuba
- US Women and Cuba Study Guide
- Cuban Visa

This cost does not include:

- Your roundtrip airfare from home city to departure city (Miami, Florida) which you need to arrange individually AFTER Marazul has CONFIRMED your flights to/from Havana
- Cuban Departure tax (\$25 CUC/about \$30 USD per person payable in Havana)
- Tipping (more information about this in Cuba Travel Advice)
- Optional travel insurance (offered by Marazul and other travel insurers)
- Some meals
- Bottled water and alcoholic drinks
- Optional activities, gifts, etc
- Based on costs not included (above) you will need an average of an additional \$50/day or between \$400-600.

Deadline for Applications: Due by April 4, 2011 to insure a space.

Final payment is due April 14, 2011.

TO COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION:

1. Return the 6-page Marazul Charters Travel Application Form, plus your resume or CV, along with a non-refundable deposit of \$200 made payable to Marazul Charters, Inc. Please e-mail or fax your Application Form and resume/CV to Marazul, and also mail the original copies of these forms, with your original signatures, to Marazul at the address below. Your \$200 deposit (and your final payment) may be made either by credit card (see Marazul Application Form for information) or by certified check sent to: Marazul Charters Inc, 4100 Park Avenue, Weehawken, NJ, 07086.
2. Also, at the same time, send the completed Application (minus the Page 5 Credit Card authorization) and your resume/CV to the US Women and Cuba Collaboration via email to 2011delegation@gmail.com
3. We hope to be able to accept all applicants, but if we cannot accept your application, your \$200 deposit will be refunded. Otherwise, please consider your deposit nonrefundable. Following Marazul Charter's receipt of your registration materials and your \$200 deposit, Marazul will notify you of your acceptance status, and will send accepted delegates an invoice for the balance of their payment, and at that time the US Women and Cuba Collaboration will send an e-mail with further information. Lastly, following Marazul's receipt of your final payment by April 14, 2011, you will receive our Cuba Study

Guide and any final delegation and travel information from Marazul including a packet with your Cuban visa and land and air vouchers.

4. Please contact Marazul Charters about any connecting flight questions and other individual arrangements you need.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY OVERVIEW:

Our final program will be confirmed when we arrive in Havana—and then it will still be subject to possible changes to take advantage of best opportunities.

Friday, May 13, Arrive in Miami

Saturday May 14th, Miami to Havana

7 AM, Meet at Marazul Charters check in at Miami Airport for flight to Havana

12noon, Arrival in Havana and transfer to Victoria Hotel.

Afternoon, as part of city tour, informal visits with artists Flora Fong and/or Alicia Leal.

Dinner on our own.

Sunday May 15th, Havana

Breakfast at the hotel.

9:00-11:00am, Delegation Orientation meeting at the hotel.

11:30 am, Departure from hotel on bus for city tour ending at Callejón de Hammel.

1:00-2:30pm, Lunch on our own.

3:00-6:00pm, Walking tour in Old Havana., visit to Museum of the Revolution

7:30 pm, Welcome dinner at restaurant in Old Havana.

Monday May 16th, Havana

Breakfast at the hotel.

9:00am, Meeting desk officer from ICAP.

11:00am, Meeting with CENESEX representative at Casa de la Amistad.

12:15pm, Lunch at Casa de la Amistad.

2:30pm, **Women in 21st Century Conference.**

Dinner at a restaurant in town included.

Return to hotel.

Tuesday May 17th, Havana

Breakfast at the hotel.

Women in 21st Century Conference.

Dinner on our own.

Wednesday May 18th Havana

Breakfast at the hotel.

Women in 21st Century Conference.

Dinner on our own.

In Havana, we have requested visits with the Federation of Cuban Women, UNEAC Commission on Race, Literacy Museum and Latin American School of Medicine

Thursday May 19th, Havana to Santa Clara by bus

Breakfast at the hotel.

8:30am, Departure for Santa Clara.
Stop at Che Guevara square and visit memorial.
Welcome and lunch at ICAP.
3:00pm Visit to NTMC (Natural Medicine Clinic) in Santa Clara.
Accommodation in Santa Clara.
Dinner at the hotel.
8:30pm, Meeting with CDR.

On the road, we have requested visits to a women's agricultural co-op, School of Social Work or School for Music teachers. We would also like to meet with young women, possibly the FEU at one of the Provincial Universities.

Friday, May 20th, Santa Clara to Holguin by bus

Breakfast at the hotel.
8:00am, Departure for Holguín province and stop on the way for lunch in Camaguey.
12:30pm, Lunch included.
Continuation to Holguín.
6:00pm, Check in at Holguin Hotel.
Dinner at the hotel.

Saturday, May 21st, Holguin to Santiago de Cuba by bus

Breakfast at the hotel.
10:00am, Visit to Federation of Cuban Women in Holguin.
Lunch on our own.
Continuation to Santiago de Cuba.
Accommodation at the Santiago hotel and dinner included.

Sunday May 22nd Santiago de Cuba

Breakfast at the hotel.
9:30am, Morning tour of the city of Santiago de Cuba.
Visit to Santa Ifigenia Cemetery. Visit Mariana Grajales tomb and some other relevant patriots' monuments.
Lunch on our own.
Afternoon: Visit Sculpture of Slave Resistance and meet with artist
If time permits, El Morro, San Pedro de la Roca Fortress
Dinner included at the hotel.

Monday May 23rd, Santiago de Cuba, and flight to Havana

Breakfast at the hotel.
9:00am, Visit to El Quitrín women's project in cooperation with the FMC.
Lunch on our own.
2:45pm, Visit to Carnival Museum with Afro-Cuban Folkloric presentation
Dinner included at the hotel
10:30pm, Depart for Havana flight.
Havana arrival and check into Hotel Victoria

Tuesday May 24th, Havana

Breakfast at the Hotel.
Meeting with women in communication and Norma Guillard
Delegation Evaluation and on-going Commitments Meeting.
Farewell Dinner included with ICAP and FMC in Old Havana.

Wednesday May 25th, Havana and return flight to US

6am, Transfer to airport to return to US.

9 am, Leave for Miami

Contact us with any program related questions you have at 2011delegation@gmail.com . We look forward to meeting you and investigating **Advancing Women's Human Rights, Racial Justice, and Social Welfare** in Cuba!

In friendship and solidarity,

US Women and Cuba Collaboration Delegation Coordinators

Cindy, Jan, Kamilah, Michelle and Victoria

Included in this current email packet are:

1. This "Querida Amiga/Dear Friend" Information Letter (that you are now reading)

2. Attached Marazul Charters Travel Application Form (pages 1-6)

(Return form to both Marazul Charters, Inc. by fax/email/ regular mail and also return by email (except not page 5) to 2011delegation@gmail.com

3. Attached Marazul Charters Cuba Travel Advice